

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2935
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CORRECTED COPY FOOTNOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, ILO
SUBJECT: SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF ILO SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL

1. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 25 OF THE SWISS-ILO AGREEMENT WHICH EFFECTIVELY FORCED THE ILO TO TERMINATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF GREGORY MIAGKOV WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED IN FRANCE SOME WEEKS AGO FOR ESPIONAGE INVOLVING A FRENCH CITIZEN. FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT WHICH APPEARED IN THE FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, ISSUE OF LA SUISSE, WITH SIMILAR STORIES APPEARING IN OTHER SWISS PAPERS:

2. QUOTE A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE, MR. GREGORY MIAGKOV, RESIGNED ON TUESDAY AND LEFT SWITZERLAND HURRIEDLY FOR MOSCOW YESTERDAY, IT IS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES.

3. QUOTE IN GENEVA DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES, HE IS SUSPECTED OF BEING THE PRINCIPAL AGENT OF THE KGB (THE SOVIET SECRET CONFIDENTIAL

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SERVICE) IN GENEVA. IN JUNE HE WAS SUBJECTED TO A VERY LONG IDENTITY CHECK BY THE FRENCH POLICE AT THE FRANCO-SWISS FRONTIER AT MOILLESULLAZ, NEAR ANNEMASSE, WHEN RETURNING FROM A WEEKEND IN HAUTE SAVOIE.

4. QUOTE THIS OPERATION TOOK PLACE SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE DEFECTION OF A SOVIET DIPLOMAT STATIONED IN GENEVA, MR.

VLADIMIR REZUN, WHO ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN GREAT BRITAIN AND DENOUNCED A NUMBER OF SOVIET OFFICIALS OF UNO AS MEMBERS OF THE KGB.

5. QUOTE MR. MIAGKOV, WHO WORKED IN THE "PROFESSIONAL TRAINING" DIVISION OF THE ILD, IS THE SECOND SOVIET OFFICIAL OF THIS ORGANIZATION TO LEAVE HIS POST SUDDENLY.

6. QUOTE IN HHS DDSCLOSURES TO THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES, MR. REZUN IMPLICATED ANOTHER SOVIET OFFICIAL, MR. VLADIMIR LOBATCHEV, HEAD OF THE UNO'S GENERAL SERVICES IN GENEVA. THE LATTER WENT ON A MISSION TO MOSCOW FOR UNO IN JUNE AND RESUMED HIS DUTIES SN GENEVA IN JULY'

7. QUOTE MR. MIAGKOV, WHO IS 51, JOINED THE ILO'S CAIRO OFFICE IN 1968 AND HAD BEEN IN GENEVA SINCE 1971' MARRIED AND WITH TWO CHILDREN, HE WAS A SPECIALIST IN THE TRAINING OF RAILROAD PERSONNEL. HIS WORK AT THE ILO INVOLVED FREQUENT TRAVEL IN WEST AND EAST AFRICA AS WELL AS IN EUROPE.

8. QUOTE THE ILO CONFIRMED MR. MIAGKOV'S RESIGNATION. END QUOTE

9. DURING TODAY'S UN BRIEFING, ILO SPOKESMAN KYRIL TIDMARSH, IN AN EFFORT TO HEAD OFF QUESTIONS, SAID THAT THE SWISS AMBASSADOR CALLED JULY 26 ON BERTIL BOLEN (WHO CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS SITTING IN FOR BLANCHARD DURING THE LATTER'S VACATION) AND ASKED FOR APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 25 OF THE SWISS-ILO AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH SWITZERLAND CAN ASK, IN SECURITY INTERESTS, THAT ANY ILO EMPLOYEE BE PNG'D. ON AUGUST 1, MIAGKOV'S EMPLOYMENT WAS TERMINATED UNDER ARTICLE 11.4 OF THE ILO STAFF REGULATIONS, AND TIDMARSH BELIEVED HE LEFT SWITZERLAND AUGUST 3.

10. THERE ARE 35 SOVIET EMPLOYEES OF ILO AS OF TODAY.

11. THERE WAS ONE PREVIOUS ARTICLE 25 CASE IN ILO HISTORY -- "A LONG TIME AGO", BUT AFTER WORLD WAR TWO. TIDMARSH WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION TO NAME NEITHER THE INDIVIDUAL NOR THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

12. THE SOVIET MISSION HERE HAS BEEN INFORMED. IT EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" AND "DENIED" THAT MIAGKOV HAD BEEN GUILTY OF ESPIONAGE.

13. THIS MISSION HAS HAD AN APPROPRIATE ROLE IN THE MONITORING OF THE ABOVE STORY. VANDEN HEUVEL

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA. 9., LINE 7, LINE CORRECT AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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